



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2853-073]

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; Notice of Application
Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Motions to Intervene and Protests

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

- a. Type of Application: New Major License
- b. Project No.: 2853-073
- c. Date Filed: June 30, 2022
- d. Applicant: Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
(Montana DNRC)
- e. Name of Project: Broadwater Hydroelectric Project (project)
- f. Location: On the Missouri River near the town of Toston in Broadwater County, Montana. The project is adjacent to and includes federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.
- g. Filed Pursuant to: Federal Power Act 16 USC §§ 791 (a) – 825(r)
- h. Applicant Contact: David Lofftus, Hydro Power Program Manager, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, 1424 9th Avenue, P.O. Box 201601, Helena, Montana 59620; Phone at (406) 444-6659; or email at dlofftus@mt.gov
- i. FERC Contact: Ingrid Brofman at (202) 502-8347, or ingrid.brofman@ferc.gov.
- j. Deadline for filing motions to intervene and protests: June 24, 2023

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file motions to intervene and protests using the Commission's eFiling system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FEROnline.aspx>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FEROnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be

addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. All filings must clearly identify the project name and docket number on the first page: **Broadwater Hydroelectric Project (P-2853-073)**.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all interveners filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervener files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

- k. This application has been accepted for filing, but is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.
- l. The existing Broadwater Hydroelectric Project consists of: (1) a 630-foot-long, 24-foot-high concrete gravity dam with a 360-foot-long spillway containing seven inflatable rubber gates capable of raising the dam's crest elevation by 11 feet; (2) a 275-acre, 9-mile-long reservoir; (3) a 160-foot long rock jetty that extends upstream into the reservoir that serves to separate inflow to the powerhouse from the headworks of the non-project irrigation canal adjacent to the dam; (4) an intake integral with the powerhouse and covered by two inclined trashracks, each 20 feet wide and 40 feet high, with a clear bar spacing of 3 inches; (5) a 160-foot-long, 46-foot-wide, 64-foot high powerhouse containing a single Kaplan turbine with a rated capacity of 9.66 megawatts; (6) a 100-kilovolt, 2.8-mile-long transmission line; and (6) appurtenant facilities.

The project is operated in a run-of-river mode and generates an estimated average of 40,669 megawatt-hours per year.

Montana DNRC proposes to remove the jetty that separates the hydropower intake and the irrigation canal intake and install two parallel 100-foot-long, 10-foot-wide by 10-foot-high box culverts within the irrigation intake canal and a bulkhead near the current irrigation headworks. Once these facilities are installed, any water diverted for irrigation first pass through a new angled screen with 6-inch spacing between the bars and then pass through the two new box culverts before entering the existing irrigation intake at the dam. The existing irrigation intake and facilities at the dam conveying water to the Broadwater-Missouri irrigation canal system would remain in place. Montana DNRC proposes to include the new tilted screen and box culverts as licensed project facilities.

Montana DNRC also proposes to modernize the project trash rake (i.e., replace and recalibrate sensors on the rake) to minimize debris buildup on the dam intake and to upgrade its SCADA monitoring system (i.e., improving connectivity to the substation, protective relaying, and automation upgrades).

Montana DNRC proposes to continue to operate the project in an automated run-of-river mode throughout the year where outflow from the project approximates inflow

(minus flows diverted for irrigation). Montana DNRC proposes to modify its procedures for responding to an unplanned unit trip to reduce the potential for fish stranding downstream of the project.

- m. A copy of the application is available for review via the Internet through the Commission's Home Page (<http://www.ferc.gov>), using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number, excluding the last three digits in the docket number field, to access the document. At this time, the Commission has suspended access to the Commission's Public Reference Room. For assistance, contact FERC at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or call toll free, (886) 208-3676 or TTY (202) 502-8659.

You may also register online at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOOnline.aspx> to be notified via e-mail of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

- n. Anyone may submit a protest or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR §§ 385.210, 385.211, and 385.214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any protests or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified deadline date for the particular application.

When the application is ready for environmental analysis, the Commission will issue a public notice requesting comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, or prescriptions.

All filings must (1) bear in all capital letters the title "PROTEST" or "MOTION TO INTERVENE;" (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person protesting or intervening; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR § 385.2001 through 385.2005. Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant. A copy of any protest or motion to intervene must be served upon each representative of the applicant specified in the particular application.

- o. Procedural schedule: The application will be processed according to the following schedule. Revisions to the schedule will be made as appropriate.

Issue Notice of Ready for Environmental Analysis	June 2023
Deadline for Filing Comments, Recommendations, and Agency Terms and Conditions/Prescriptions	July 2023
Deadline for Filing Reply Comments	September 2023

Dated: April 25, 2023.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,
Deputy Secretary.

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